

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 23rd September 1899.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Places of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Anusandhan" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	13th September, 1899.	
2	"Bangabhumi" ...	Ditto ...	.....	19th ditto.	
3	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	25,000	14th and 21st ditto.	
4	"Basumati" ...	Ditto ...	15,000	15th September, 1899.	
5	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	About 6,000	22nd ditto.	
6	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,500	18th ditto.	
7	"Prativasi" ...	Ditto ...	3,600	16th ditto.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	20th ditto.	
9	"Samiran" ...	Ditto ...	.....	14th ditto.	
10	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	8,000	18th ditto.	
11	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	1,000		
12	"Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika."	Ditto ...	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Chandrika" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	18th to 20th and 22nd September, 1899.	
2	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,000	16th and 18th to 21st September 1899.	
3	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	300	20th and 21st September, 1899.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	2,000	18th September, 1899.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	14th, 21st, 28th August and 19th September 1899.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hablu Mateen" ...	Calcutta ...	800	18th September 1899.	
2	"Mefta-hur-zafar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Calcutta ...	300	14th ditto.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto ...	330	16th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangabandhu" ...	Chandernagore ...	.....	16th ditto.	
2	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	600	16th ditto.	
3	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	235	12th ditto.	
4	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	510	17th ditto.	
5	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,350	15th ditto.	
6	"Medini Bandhav" ...	Midnapore ...	.....	18th ditto.	
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Sevika" ...	Diamond Harbour ...	.....	Bhadra 1306 B. S.	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Hitakari" ...	Kushtia ...	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Basirhat Suhrid" ...	Basirhat ...	.....	
2	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Berhampore, Murshidabad.	500	16th September, 1899.	
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto ...	600	16th ditto.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS—concluded.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Places of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA. <i>Weekly.</i>	ORISSA DIVISION.			
1	“Sambalpur Hitaishini” ...	Bamra, in the Central Provinces.	500		
2	“Samvad Vahika” ...	Balasore ...	150		
3	“Uriya and Navasamvad” ...	Ditto ...	376	8th July 1899.	
4	“Utkal Dipika” ...	Cuttack ...	400	1st ditto.	
	HINDI. <i>Monthly</i>	PATNA DIVISION.			
1	“Bihar Bandhu” ...	Bankipore ...	About 600		
	URDU. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	“Al Punch” ...	Bankipore ...	500	8th and 15th September 1899.	
	BENGALL. <i>Weekly.</i>	CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.			
1	“Manbhum” ...	Purulia ... ..	.....	19th September 1899.	
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
1	“Hindu Ranjika” ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	300	20th ditto.	
2	“Kangal” ...	Cooch Behar ...	300	20th ditto.	
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>				
1	“Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika.”	Darjeeling ...	.....	
	BENGALL. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	DACCA DIVISION.			
1	“Faridpur Hitaishini” ...	Faridpur ...	750		
2	“Kasipur Nivasi” ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	300	15th ditto.	
3	“Sikshak Suhrid” ...	Dacca ... ...	.....	16th ditto.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	“Barisal Hitaishi” ...	Barisal	400	13th ditto.	
2	“Charu Mihir” ...	Mymensingh ...	1,011	12th ditto.	
3	“Dacca Prakash” ...	Dacca	2,400	17th ditto.	
4	“Sanjay” ...	Faridpur ... ...	.....	15th ditto.	
5	“Saraswat Patra” ...	Dacca	500	16th ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	“Dacca Gazette” ...	Dacca	500	18th ditto.	
	BENGALL. <i>Weekly.</i>	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
1	“Sansodhini” ...	Chittagong ...	120		
2	“Tripura Hitaishi” ...	Comilla ...	550	11th and 18th ditto.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	ASSAM.			
1	“Paridarsak” ...	Sylhet ...	.....	
2	“Silchar” ...	Silchar, Cachar ...	375		

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

The *Charu Mihir* of the 12th September writes:—

Police reform.

Abuse of their powers by the police is a constant source of suffering and harassment to the people of the mufassal. Poor as the people are, they cannot bring their wrongs to the notice of the authorities and have to suffer in silence. For various reasons, offending police officers cannot even be brought to justice in the law courts. Police oppression cannot, therefore, be checked. We are glad to hear that Lord Curzon intends reforming the police. He will earn the sincere good wishes of the poor if, before leaving the country, he can put a stop to police oppression in the mufassal.

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 12th, 1899.

2. The *Sanjivani* of the 14th September writes as follows:—

A cooly story.

Alas, the cooly law is ruining the country, still the authorities will not wake from their sleep!

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 14th, 1899.

Babu Tilak Chandra Chakravarti sends us the following story from Lakshmi-pur in Dhubri:—

A helpless Brahman girl has taken shelter with us. She was a resident of Syambazar in Calcutta and in the month of Falgun last was seduced, while out bathing in the Hooghly, by a female *arkati* and sent up to Assam as a cooly. She was delivered by a gentleman of Gauhati from the garden to which she had been sent up. Her age is about fourteen or fifteen. She is an extremely well behaved girl of a grave demeanour. Her only relation is a brother, whose name is Purna Chandra Banerji and who serves in some office at Dum-Dum. He was communicated with, but gave no reply to the letter that was written to him.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

3. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 12th September says that the mis-

The working of the Road Cess
Department in the Burdwan dis-
trict.

management prevailing in the Road Cess office in Burdwan often causes loss not only to raiyats and zamindars, but also to Government. Recently

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Sept. 12th, 1899.

a limited coal company submitted its road cess report and return, and was assessed upon a net profit of thirty-seven thousand and a few hundred rupees. The company objected to the assessment. The company's affairs were therefore closely scrutinised, and its net profits were found to be something over forty-six thousand rupees. This clearly shows that the first assessment was wrong and, but for the discovery accidentally made in consequence of the company's own action, Government would have been a loser upon something like nine thousand rupees. Who would have been accountable for this loss? There are a large number of coal companies in the Burdwan district. If similar mistakes have been made in the case of all these, the loss which the Government is suffering must be very heavy. None but the road cess establishment is to blame for this loss. It is very probable that mistakes have been made in the case of other companies also, because the cess of all coal companies is assessed under the same law and rules and upon the same principle. The road cess amla and the Deputy Collector in charge of the department should be called upon for an explanation of the mistake that was committed. The District Magistrate should without delay make an enquiry as to the principle upon which cesses payable by the coal companies have been assessed, and whether that principle was consistent with the provisions of the law. If different companies have been assessed on different principles he should require the reason of so doing to be explained.

4. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th September refers to an article in a recent

European jurors in the trial of
European offenders.

number of *India*, on the partiality of European jurors in trying European offenders, and makes the following comments:—

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1899.

The writer in *India* gives proofs of the race partiality and native hatred of European jurors. We do not say that there are no good and conscientious men among European jurors, but they are few and far between. The race partiality of European jurors is a stigma on the British nation, and is sure to

put every honest Englishman to shame. We pray Lord Curzon to remove this scandal, this stigma. Let European offenders be adequately punished, and there will soon be a falling off in the number of murders of, and assaults on, natives. There has been no perceptible improvement in the state of things since 1840 when Lord Auckland's sister frequently came across Europeans ill-treating natives with impunity. Those Anglo-Indians who are prone to find fault with native jurors are, however, blind to the faults of European jurors.

SANJAY,
Sept. 15th, 1899.

5. The *Sanjay* of the 15th September says that, although there are two newspapers in Faridpur, one a fortnightly and the District Judge of Faridpur. the other a weekly, all Civil Court sale notifications are, by the order of the District Judge, published in the fortnightly paper, the *Faridpur Hitaishini*, and the cost of publication, four annas for every notification of the Munsif's Court and eight annas for every notification of the Subordinate Judge's Court, which is unjustly realised from the parties concerned, is paid to that paper. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* would not, as a matter of fact, have lived, but for this support which the District Judge, Mr. B. C. Mitra, is kind enough to lend it. Sometime ago, the paper enjoyed the favour of Babu Jogendra Nath Vidyabhusan, who was brought into disgrace by his connection with it. Mr. B. C. Mitra should cut off all connection with the paper. He cannot deny that he has some sort of connection with it; for, if he had not, he would not be so anxious to support it by money realised from parties. If he thinks the publication of sale notifications necessary for the public good, a reference to the *Sanjay's* petition will show him that he can secure that object without incurring any cost whatever. Mr. B. C. Mitra favoured this paper with the sale notifications of Goalundo and Chikandi Munsifs. But the favour was withdrawn on the appearance in it of an article on the subject of the favouritism prevailing in the District Judge's office.

The *Hitaishini*, in return for the favour which is shown to it, is always ready to sing the District Judge's praise and never sees any fault in that officer.

BASIRHAT SUHRID,
Sept. 16th, 1899.

6. The *Basirhat Suhrid* of the 16th September complains that Babu Giri Chandra Sen, Officiating Second Munsif of Basirhat in the 24-Parganas district, has been able to please none, either by his method of administering justice or by his treatment of the pleaders and the public. His method of administering justice has struck everybody dumb with astonishment, and he is not on good terms with the bar.

(d) — *Education.*

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 12th, 1899.

7. The *Charu Mihir* of the 12th September says that never was a scheme so unanimously condemned by the Native Press as the new scheme of vernacular education. has been the new scheme of vernacular education proposed for Bengal. But it is not known how far Government will listen to its protest. Public bodies like the British Indian Association and the Indian Association have much to do in this connection. But, unfortunately, leaders of public opinion in Calcutta are just now wholly occupied with the Calcutta Municipal Bill, and have no time to spare for the consideration of educational questions. But they should remember that the proposed scheme of vernacular education is not a measure of less moment to the country than the Municipal Bill. Anything wrong in the lower education of the country will work mischief in many ways.

The Kindergarten system proposed to be introduced will be of little use, if carried on at the meagre expense and with the poor arrangement suggested. The Indians have been crying for technical education, and it is not easy to see what good they will derive from such a brief, epitomised method thereof. The boys will certainly laugh over a system of education which makes it serious teaching, distinguishing between the taste of a chilli and the taste of sugar.

While the Committee admits that work under the new system may not, for the present, proceed satisfactorily for want of properly trained teachers, it expects that the guide books proposed for the teachers will amply make up for their

ignorance. But it is certainly rashness to entertain such an expectation in connection with such an important matter as this.

The writer admits the necessity of introducing scientific education, but he is not an advocate of scientific education carried on with the aid of very poor apparatus and capable of producing only poor results. What the Government should do is, first of all, to train up teachers and provide sufficient funds. It will then be time to introduce the scheme. No harm will be done if it is not introduced in 1902. Government will not agree to the giving up of a scheme which it has taken so long a time to mature. It may probably lose its patience to think that a scheme which was conceived in 1893 cannot be carried out even after so long a time as nine years. The Committee, too, will not like to see all their labours come to nothing. But it ought to be remembered that seven years' deliberation is not too much for making a radical change in such an important thing as the entire system of lower education. The Committee's report has been before the public only for a short time.

There ought to have been more than eight members in the Committee, and the scheme would have been better discussed if there had been in it some independent literary and scientific men. The injury which will be done to the country by introducing a bad scheme hurriedly or by mistake will not be easily repaired. The Government should wait till it has made adequate preparation for introducing the scheme.

8. The *Sanjirani* of the 14th September asks why is Raja Saei Sekharswar Rai so determined to establish a Rajkumar College in Bengal? The number of Rajas in Bengal does not exceed two dozens—five in North Bengal, four in East Bengal, nine in the Presidency Division and five in the Burdwan Division. Will the sons of only these two dozen Rajas read in the College, or will the sons of ordinary zamindars also read in it? If the latter read there the name of the institution should be the Zamindar College and not the Rajkumar College.

9. The same paper says that, although the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 6th September last, prescribed, as the text book in English for the Entrance examination of 1901, the

The Entrance Course in English
for 1901. Entrance Course which was said to have been published by Messrs. Thacker, Spink and Company, enquiry at those book-sellers' showed that up to the 13th September they had published no such text-book as was stated by the Registrar of the Calcutta University. Was it proper for the Registrar to say that the book had been published, when, as a matter of fact, it had not yet been published?

In three weeks more, all schools will be closed for the Durga Puja, and then the session will almost come to an end. But the Entrance Course for 1901 has not yet been got through the press. Will the candidates for the examination of 1901 be able to go through their course in one year only? The writer would like to know, who is responsible for such mismanagement of the affairs of the University.

10. In its sixth article on the new scheme of vernacular education, the same paper has the following with special reference to female education and the pursuit of literature as a profession:—

The new scheme of vernacular education. Among the subjects now taught in the vernacular schools there are some which do not seem calculated to promote the interests of female education, and the authorities have therefore kindly permitted all female pupils to learn needle work in lieu of one or two such subjects, if they are so minded. The existing arrangements for the education of native girls are extremely defective, still by requiring them, as has been hitherto the case, to read literature, grammar, history, geography, hygiene and arithmetic, a good deal is being done to further that education. The new scheme is going to change all this. Just think of the kind of instruction which will henceforward be given to native girls. Like boys they, too, will receive oral instruction in the infant classes and learn drawing and drill, but will not learn to read and write. On getting promotion to the higher classes they will read brief summaries of text-books on agriculture, chemistry, zoology, physical science, &c., and receive lessons in house-keeping, while boys are set to do bamboo and wood-work. But the teaching will be imparted by the *guru mahasay* who is also the teacher of the

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 14th, 1896.

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SANJIVANI.

boys, for the pathsalas have no mistresses at present and are not likely to have any in the near future. The authorities only know how the *guru mahasay* will be able to give the girls lessons in house-keeping.

The new scheme will do serious harm to female education, and stand in the way of native girls attending a vernacular school as a preparation for higher and more advanced studies. We have shown that the boys who may be trained under the proposed system will not find their vernacular education of any use to them when they afterwards join an English school; that the children of the well-to-do classes will not henceforth read Bengali, but will take their admission in an English school at the outset, and that the number of English schools in this country will therefore increase. But what will be the prospect before the native girls? Taught in a vernacular school, as they will be, under the system now proposed, they will be unable either to fit themselves for higher studies or to acquire a proficiency in the Bengali language. By reading up to the Upper Primary standard they can now join a medical school. Even that opening will be closed to them, for the study of Bengali literature being discontinued in the Upper Primary class, they will possess no acquaintance with that language and literature and will be unable to understand the language of medical books. There is, again, no likelihood of the native public setting up a separate class of schools for the benefit of girls. If, therefore, Government does not desire to lay the axe at the root of female education in this country, it should either improve the character and quality of vernacular education by maintaining the existing system or make a complete separation of the system of female education from that proposed for the education of boys. If the new scheme is given effect to, it will be necessary to provide a separate class of schools, separate text-books and separate teachers for the education of the girls. If such provision is to be made, the policy of killing two birds with one stone will not do. It will be necessary to incur separate expenditure on female education.

The improvement of national literature is one of the principal effects of civilisation. Contact with European civilisation has imparted a new life to Bengali literature, and the liberal-minded English Government has always encouraged and fostered its development. It has up to this time done nothing to interfere with the means of livelihood of those who follow it as a profession. Improvement of literature is attended with various facilities for earning a livelihood. Many people in Bengal are now earning their bread by doing business as printers, book-sellers, &c. Now, as regards the printing business, it is undeniable that its present prosperous condition in this country is mainly due to the preparation and publication of school books. The book-seller's business, too, depends on the production of such books. The new scheme of vernacular education will prove injurious to literary men, proprietors of printing presses and book-sellers alike. It will lead to a reduction in the number of text-books. In the place of the 40 text-books on different subjects now read in the seven classes of a vernacular school from the lowest to the highest class, there will henceforth be read only ten books, or, in other words, the occupation of the writers of school books will decrease by three-fourths. This is really a serious loss to the country at the present time when the struggle for existence has become so keen and furious. The task of preparing these ten books again will be probably undertaken by Government itself. The Committee has fixed the price, size and the nature of the contents of the proposed text-books. Is improvement of literature possible under such rigorous conditions? Is there any country where writers have been able to give evidence of their ability by slavishly following such hard-and-fast rules? Does it behove the liberal English Government to prematurely arrest the progress of Bengali literature by binding it down so tightly? Is the independence of literature to be thus taken away under the rule of Lord Curzon who is so much distinguished for his mental independence? Must not even freedom of thought be left after this? Will not native authors be permitted to write a few moral essays or scientific dissertations in an independent manner? We strongly protest against the new arrangements and pray Government to generously leave the door of free competition open to native authors.

A appeal is made to free trade principles in all other matters. Why, then, make rules savouring of protection in the case of the book-making business

alone ? The improvement of Bengali books and of the vernacular press has just commenced. Will that improvement be sustained if the price, subject matter, &c., of text-books are fixed in this way ? Thanks to the labours of the Central Text-Book Committee and free competition, the prices of school books are being lowered and great improvement is being noticed in the printing and binding of such books and in their illustrations and woodcuts ; but this improvement will now cease. Henceforth the books of only such writers will be appointed as text-books as will secure influence and carry out official orders without protest.

11. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th September has the following on the new scheme of vernacular education in continuation of what it wrote on the same subject in its previous issue :—

The Government has plainly said that the object of the Primary schools is to educate the students so as to enable them to earn an independent livelihood. But Mr. Pedler has failed to devise any means for the fulfilment of this object. He has hastily proceeded to bring about a revolution in many directions without thinking of the consequences. The Government has founded and is founding technical schools in many places, and at the last meeting of the Sobhabazar Benevolent Society, the Lieutenant-Governor advised the Bengali middle classes to send their children to these schools. The scientific Director of Public Instruction, therefore, is unnecessarily bringing about a revolution in the name of science, although there are proper places for the imparting of technical and scientific education. We have repeatedly said that a few pages of science taught in a pathsala will not fit a student for technical pursuits and turn his so called scientific knowledge into account. He who tries to make pathsala education fit a student for technical pursuits may be an expert scientist ; but is certainly not a man of practical experience. No one can praise his impetuosity and self-conceit.

Mr. Pedler's Committee have suggested that history and geography should be written on the model of Lee-Warner's "Citizen of India." "Citizen of India" may prove a valuable and useful book to those who want information about the history of Indian towns and about the revenue, post office, telegraph and canals in India. But there is no systematic treatment of geography in this book. It does not also contain a connected account of events. From his reading of Geography, a student knows the geographical details of different countries, towns and peoples, and the routes to different places. Such a treatment of Geography is both interesting and instructive. There ought to be a system, a classification in a geographical text-book. There is no such system in "Citizen of India." It contains facts and figures unconnected with one another.

"Citizen of India" cannot also be regarded as a text-book in history. A historical text-book should contain a connected account of events. History will not be properly studied if the connection of one event with another is not known. From the reading of history one would gain a knowledge of the good and bad qualities of one's own countrymen as well as of foreign nations. History also speaks of great deeds achieved by man. The History of India gives the reader an idea of the indomitable power of the British people and therefore naturally creates in his mind a respect for British rule. But "Citizen of India" is not a historical text-book and cannot, therefore, serve the purpose of history. It gives an account of the Blackhole, but has nothing to say about Seraj-ud-Daula. It treats of the railway and canal and telegraph in India, but has nothing to say about Lord Dalhousie's administration. The history of the Blackhole without an account of Seraj-ud-Daula is like the play of Hamlet with the part of Hamlet left out, and "Citizen of India" contains no account of Chandragupta or Asoka, Buddha or Muhammad, Baber or Aurangzeb, Lord Clive or Lord Dalhousie, and yet it is a text-book on the history of India. The Director of Public Instruction has displayed as much knowledge in describing what a historical text-book should be like as in defining the nature of literature !

Mr. Pedler's Committee have fixed whimsically low prices for the vernacular text-books. A school book containing 150 pages is to be priced at three or four annas. Does Mr. Pedler place all presses on the same level with the

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1899.

Jail press or the *Battala* presses, that he expects them to print books at an extremely low price? Mr. Pedler ought to know that Bengali presses have considerably improved, and that Bengali publications now-a-days rival Macmillan's English publications in printing, get up and illustrations. The authors and publishers of text-books always consult the pockets of the students and price their books as low as possible. Bengali books compare favourably in price with English books, and a book containing about one hundred pages is never priced at more than three or four annas; but the price which Mr. Pedler wants to fix for a Bengali book will certainly lead to the deterioration of the printing and get up of Bengali publications.

Indian authors and publishers never forget to consult the pockets of the poor students. But Mr. Pedler proposes to do anything and everything with the vernacular publications. But can he, we ask, fix the price of "Citizen of India" at six annas? Will MacMillan and Company agree to sell the book at such a low price? Mr. Pedler is a kind-hearted man and the sufferings of the poor have moved him. Why does not his kindness lead him to reduce the prices of the articles of every day use? The Indian poor will sincerely bless the kind-hearted Director of Public Instruction if he can fix the price of a piece of cloth at three annas and that of a seer of salt at two pice. To tell the truth, anybody and everybody can treat an innocent man with a high hand, in the name of sympathising with the poor. Sympathy in such a case is simulated sympathy, and we hope that Mr. Pedler will do nothing to lay himself open to the charge of simulated sympathy. The price of an article does not depend upon a man's fancy. The price of a book depends upon its size and get-up.

One word more and we have done. The system, which was inaugurated by Sir George Campbell, was supported by educationists like Clarke and Bhudev Mukherji and has been in existence and borne fruit for half a century, should not be revolutionised all at once. Few Lieutenant-Governors as gifted as Sir George Campbell have ruled Bengal, and there have been few educationists as experienced and able as Bhudev. We almost shudder to think of the consequences of revolutionising the existing system.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1899.

12. A correspondent writes in the same paper that Mr. Pedler's scheme of vernacular education will prejudicially affect not only the students of the vernacular schools, but also the drawing masters of the normal schools. They

have been ordered to join the Government Art School and go through a complete course of education there. They will receive half pay during the period of their training in the Art School. These teachers entered Government service after passing the examinations of the Art School. It may be that they are ignorant of the latest improvements in drawing; but it would have been more advisable to require them to study these new improvements. Those who are in Calcutta might be permitted to go and attend lectures in the Art School once or twice a week. It will no doubt be a great hardship to these teachers if they are compelled to live on half pay in these days of high prices.

EDUCATION
GAZETTE,
Sept. 15th, 1899.

The new scheme of vernacular education.

13. The *Education Gazette* of the 15th September has the following from one Babu Kalidas Ghosh of Lokpara School on the new scheme of vernacular education:—

It is no doubt with a good intention that the Government has, on the recommendation of the Education Committee, proposed to thoroughly change the existing system of vernacular education. But it would be more advisable to change the system here and there, to make additions where necessary and to remove its unnecessary and objectionable features. It is true that, under the existing system, a heavy burden of books has been placed on the shoulders of the students of the Primary and Middle Vernacular schools, and it is simply impossible for them to pass examinations after acquiring a thorough knowledge of the subjects dealt with in those books. The teachers of these schools, therefore, satisfy themselves with helping the boys in getting the contents of their books by heart.

If the Primary and Middle Vernacular Scholarship examination courses are curtailed, and if books, which are of no practical value, are abolished from the curriculum, and if questions set in the examinations are so framed as to

test the knowledge of the candidates, it will be materially helping the students in acquiring real knowledge. If the burden of books on the shoulders of the boys be lightened, the teachers will be given an opportunity to impart some knowledge to their pupils.

The truth of what we say would have become clear if the Government had taken one or two experienced middle school teachers on the Committee. For none are better acquainted with the condition of the middle-school students than the middle school teachers. It is doubtful whether the Kindergarten system, if introduced wholesale in the vernacular schools, will produce any good results. The first stage of education of the children of most middle class Bengali gentlemen is in the vernacular schools, and their guardians would not most probably send them to those schools if their students are required to make baskets and other bamboo work. This will have the effect of reducing the number of students in the vernacular schools. Middle class gentlemen are everywhere the life and soul of the vernacular schools, and if they do not send their children to these schools, they will no doubt withdraw their support from them. The vernacular schools may consequently disappear one after one. Scientific agriculture is not also likely to produce good results. Indian agriculturists possess great agricultural skill, and it is doubtful whether a knowledge of scientific agriculture will enable them to achieve more success in their line of work. It will be enough if the children of the agriculturists learn agriculture from their fathers. It will, however, be a great gain to the agricultural classes of the silk districts if the Government makes arrangements for the teaching of sericulture instead of agriculture to the students of the vernacular schools in these districts. Sericulture is a profitable industry, but it has deteriorated of late owing to the ignorance of the agriculturists. Silkworms in Bengal suffer from a disease which often destroys thousands of these worms and ruins the cultivators. Sericulture on the scientific methods of Pasteur is sure to prove a highly profitable industry. If the principles of sericulture on a scientific method are instilled into the minds of the young boys of the Primary schools, they will be able to earn an independent livelihood when they will enter the world. The boys will be able to study the principles of sericulture with a practical reference to the industry. They may also go to an experimental farm and observe the microscopical examination of silk worms conducted there. Mr. N. G. Mukherji has written a book on sericulture in Bengali, and that book, slightly modified, may very well serve the purpose of a text book. I learnt sericulture from Mr. Mukherji and started business with the help of the Government. I am satisfied with the success I have met with in my new line of work, and this is why I request the Government to make arrangements for the teaching of sericulture to the students of the vernacular schools.

14. One B. Sen of the Hayabatpur School writes as follows in the *Sikshak Suhrid* of the 16th September:—

The new scheme of vernacular education.

The new scheme of vernacular education will place boys and girls in great difficulty. When a multiplicity of dishes is set before one, unable to do justice to any dish, one simply tastes all of them. The boys and girls of the lower schools will be placed in a similar plight, if the proposed system of education is introduced. In the lower primary class they will have to read botany, natural history, agriculture, physics and hygiene, and will have to go through a course of training in drill and house-keeping. Just think of the education they will receive under such a system! One is startled to simply hear the subjects enumerated, and the burden will certainly prove too heavy for little boys and girls. The work will become heavier and heavier as the pupils advance from class to class. They will have to learn how to construct miniature hills and valleys with clay, make fans, mats, &c., with palm leaves, and cut out and make *pirans* and coats. Every teacher will realise the difficulty of teaching these subjects to little boys and girls. The introduction of the scheme will revolutionise the educational system of the province. Pathsalas will almost entirely disappear from the villages, and many middle schools, too, will be abolished. In a word, the axe will be laid at the root of lower education. Boys and girls will fail to acquire a good knowledge of their mother-tongue, and the villages will be filled with uneducated boys and girls.

SIKSHAK SUHRID,
Sept. 16th, 1899.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Sept. 17th, 1899.

15. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 17th September has the following :—

The new scheme of vernacular education. Many teachers of vernacular schools seem to fear that the introduction of the new scheme of vernacular education will lead to their dismissal,

and at their request influential men are holding protest meetings against the new scheme. The vernacular teachers are evidently labouring under a misapprehension. They ought to know that the Government does not as a rule dismiss an innocent servant. The Government is aware that the new scheme will inconvenience the teachers of vernacular schools, and the new scheme will not, therefore, be introduced all at once. It will be introduced gradually as the training of teachers on improved lines advances. The Government will not insist on doing what it is impossible to do.

Of the technical occupations which the students will be required to learn under the new system, there are some which might safely be left out of the curriculum. But the Committee have not included in the prescribed syllabus many industries which ought to be taught in the vernacular schools. Arrangements should be made to teach dairy-farming to the son of a milkman, confectionery to the son of a confectioner, pottery to the son of a potter. The children of blacksmiths and goldsmiths should also be taught their ancestral callings. These arts need not be taught in the class. It will be enough if arrangements are made to require the students to learn their ancestral callings at home. The schools should impart general and not technical education, and provision should be made for awarding prizes to students for proficiency in their ancestral callings. The general proficiency of a student should be tested by holding examinations at schools, and prizes should also be awarded for such proficiency. As for the proficiency of a student in a technical pursuit, it may be tested by a Deputy or a Sub-Inspector during his tour at any time within the examination year and at the place where the student is trained in his ancestral calling.

The new scheme will interfere with the acquisition of a sound knowledge of Bengali language and literature. It makes no provision for the teaching of grammar in the middle vernacular schools. In our opinion, arrangements should be made for the teaching of grammar in the first and second classes of a Middle Vernacular School. The number of normal schools should also be increased, and none but passed students of these schools should be provided with posts in the Middle Vernacular Schools. The existing tutorial agency will not be able to do full justice to the new scheme, and as passed students of Normal Schools will have gradually to take the place of the existing teachers, they should receive a special education in order to be able to give effect to the proposed reform. The Committee's report has not fixed the syllabus of study for a Normal School, but it is quite clear that the existing normal school course should be lightened, or the working hours of a normal school should be increased, or its vacation should be curtailed, so that its students may have time to prepare themselves for teaching boys on the lines now proposed. Provision should also be made for a systematic teaching of grammar in the normal schools, as this subject will not be systematically taught in the middle schools under the new scheme.

The education imparted in a middle school is not education of a very superior quality. Those who want to acquire a sound knowledge of Bengali literature should go to a normal school. It is, therefore, idle to assert that the new scheme will stand in the way of the acquisition of a knowledge of Bengali language and literature. The middle schools in Bengal require four or five thousand teachers, and all these teachers are to be passed students of the normal schools. All students of the normal schools do not pass and all passed students do not get employment. There will, therefore, be at least ten thousand students receiving education in the normal schools. Add to this number the number of unsuccessful normal school students, and you will get at least thirty thousand students who have passed through the normal schools. This being the case, it is idle to assert that the new scheme will practically abolish the study of Bengali language and literature.

It is asserted that under the new scheme the country will no more produce such Bengali writers as Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and Akshay Kumar Dutta. It is, however, forgotten that these great writers were not the products of

the existing system of vernacular education. The system under which they were trained may produce as great writers even if the existing system of vernacular education is abolished. It ought to be a matter for surprise that in spite of the existing system of education, even fifty years' close imitation of their style has not produced a single writer who can hold the candle to them. To tell the truth, there is no ground for the fear that the new scheme will prejudicially affect the study of the Bengali language. It will, on the contrary, help in the spread of the study of Bengali language by drawing a largely increasing number of students to the normal schools.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

16. The *Sanjivani* of the 14th September has the following:—

Only nine elected Commissioners were present at the meeting of the Corporation held on the 6th September last. Lest the meeting should fail for want of a quorum, the Chairman had invited 15 of the nominated Commissioners and the Secretary had invited 10 of the elected Commissioners to come to it. A certain Commissioner—of course, a European—has written in the *Englishman* to say that business has been facilitated by the resignation of a number of talkative and obstructive Commissioners. Yes, European Commissioners have every reason to congratulate themselves on the resignation of the elected Commissioners, because the absence of independent Commissioners from the Corporation will open the road to gain for Europeans. A proof of this was furnished at the meeting referred to above.

A resolution of the General Committee rejecting, on legal advice, a claim of Messrs. Burn and Company for Rs. 28,800 came up for confirmation. Mr. D. F. Mackenzie, a nominated Commissioner, and a brother of Sir Alexander Mackenzie and a partner and director of the firm of Messrs. Burn and Company, read a written speech supporting the firm's claim, although section 32 of the present Municipal Act explicitly lays down that 'no Commissioner shall vote or take any part in any proceedings relating to any matter in which he is interested.' Mr. Mackenzie would have been severely censured by the elected Commissioners for his illegal conduct, if they had been present at the meeting. The independent elected Commissioners had, in fact, become an eye-sore to the Europeans, because their presence in the Corporation was an obstacle to the Europeans gaining their ends; and it was solely with the object of consulting the interests of the European community that Sir Alexander Mackenzie framed his pernicious Bill. Sir Alexander's brother would have given away twenty-nine thousand of the rate-payers' money to Messrs. Burn and Company that day but for only two adverse votes. The incident gives some forewarning of the manner in which the rate-payers' money will be spent when the new law will come into force.

17. The *Samay* of the 15th September writes as follows:—

The resignation of the elected Commissioners of Calcutta. We are delighted to see the wonderful unity, moral courage and sense of self-respect shown by the 28 Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta who have resigned their seats. Their action will probably convince the Government of the political change that has come over the country with the process of time, and make it see that with this change a change has also become necessary in the method of ruling the country. Sir Alexander Mackenzie said, when introducing the Municipal Bill, that if he thought that the passing of it would have the effect of inducing Commissioners like Babus Kali Nath Mitra and Nalin Bihari Sarkar to sever their connection with the Municipality, he would rather withdraw the Bill than forego the help and advice of able and experienced men like them in the municipal administration of the city. Well, Babus Nalin Bihari Sarkar, Kali Nath Mitra and many other able Commissioners have resigned before even the passing of the Bill. Will Sir Alexander Mackenzie now remember what he said and fulfil his promise by requesting Lord Curzon to withdraw the Bill? The Government must have realised the difficulty in which the Corporation has been placed by the loss of the services of so many old and able advisers. New men may be had in their place, but they will fail to carry on the administration as their predecessors did.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 14th, 1899.

SAMAY,
Sept. 15th, 1899.

The Government probably sees from the resignation of the Commissioners that the passing of the Bill will be the inflicting of great injustice on the rate-payers? Will it still persist in passing it in the form in which it stands? Will not Lord Curzon take the present circumstances into his consideration and advise such alterations and modifications in the Bill as appear desirable? By doing so, he will incur no blame, but will earn great glory for himself. As matters stand, he is wilfully courting the disapprobation of his subjects by supporting, through ignorance, a gigantic mistake, a measure of sheer injustice. One of the Anglo-Indian papers, the *Indian Daily News*, writes:—

“It is impossible not to recognise the fact that the 28 Commissioners who have withdrawn from the Corporation, include in their ranks some of the oldest and most useful of the servants of the city. As for the native elected Commissioners who have retained their seats, it is only too obvious that they cannot compare with those who have resigned as far as a record of long and faithful service is concerned.”

It concludes by saying:—

“We are afraid, it must be admitted, that a blunder has been perpetrated. It now remains to heal (?) the breach, and the public will be curious to see what steps will be taken in the matter by His Excellency, whose tactfulness and judgment are undisputed. We have no wish to make the 28 ex-Commissioners conceited, but we are doing no more than expressing the universal opinion when we say that the public echoes Mr. Bright's regret at their resignation.”

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1899.

18. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th September has the following:—
The Hon'ble Mr. D. F. Mackenzie is a Municipal Commissioner, but he never attended a meeting of the Municipality before the resignation of the 28 elected Commissioners. His presence at the meeting, held immediately after that event, therefore, naturally surprised the public. It will be a good thing if Mr. Mackenzie henceforward regularly attends the municipal meetings, but we hesitate to expect any good from him, knowing, as we do, that even his very first attendance at the municipal meeting was actuated by self-interest. Mr. Mackenzie's reputation would not have suffered in the least if he had not attended the municipal meeting.

Messrs. Burn and Company have claimed Rs. 28,000 from the Calcutta Municipality. At the meeting under notice, this claim was the subject of discussion. The Hon'ble Mr. Mackenzie is a shareholder and Director of this Company. If he, therefore, had not come to the meeting with a written speech in support of the claim, and if he had not read that speech at the meeting, no discredit would have been reflected on his reputation. It is a great regret that Mr. Mackenzie figured in this way at the very first meeting he attended. What could be more outrageous than that a Municipal Commissioner should support a claim upon the Municipality in which he is himself interested as a Director.

The Hon'ble Mr. Mackenzie can of course do anything and everything with impunity. But how would a native Commissioner have fared if he had done such a thing? His conduct would have been condemned all over the country and even in England as illegal, unjust and contrary to the laws of civilised society. The conduct of a single Commissioner would have put all the native Commissioners to shame, and an attempt would have been made to prove that the Bengalis are absolutely unfit for Local Self-Government.

Let us request Mr. Mackenzie to spend some time in self-examination. The manner in which he conducted himself at the very first municipal meeting he attended ought to give him food for reflection in future. It is also strange and significant that such a thing should happen so soon after the resignation of the old Commissioners. It is a matter for congratulation, however, that the claim of Messrs. Burn and Company was not sanctioned, notwithstanding Mr. Mackenzie's support. The incident has excited in our mind a mixed feeling of pleasure and pain—pleasure that Mr. Mackenzie's support of the claim failed; pain, that he supported it at all.

Mr. Mackenzie has gained a reputation for himself. He was the first to try to create a European agitation in favour of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, and

yet he called the other Commissioners professional agitators. He was fitly answered in the Legislative Council, but he is impervious to shame. We hope, however, that his conduct at the municipal meeting will be enough for him, and we shall be glad if he takes in other municipal questions as much interest as he took in the claim of Messrs. Burn and Company, with which firm he is pecuniarily connected.

19. The same paper writes as follows:—

The rate-payers on the resignation of the Municipal Commissioners lately held a public meeting, at which they criticised the conduct of their local Commissioners. They praised the

Commissioner who had resigned and condemned the Commissioners who had not. The feeling of the rate-payers of each ward has been pronouncedly in favour of the resignation, and many seem to be of opinion that no one will stand as a candidate for Commissionership in the ensuing bye-elections. We, however, know the moral atmosphere of the country too well to think so. When there are so many to hanker after hollow titles, it is not unreasonable to expect that the prospects of gain in the shape of fees will attract crowds of candidates for Commissionerships.

There are voters and voters. There are both educated and uneducated people among the voters. There are even grocers and carriage drivers among them. This being the case, no combination of voters will be able to prevent a candidate from being elected a Commissioner. It will be too much to expect that a candidate will not be able to secure even ten votes. Why speak of the illiterate voters? Are there not educated but weak-minded voters as well? Nalin, Kalinath, Surendra, Narendra, have resigned, and their seats will be occupied by incompetent, *non-descript* Commissioners. If this does not make the Calcutta Municipality a farce, what will?

20. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 17th September has the following with reference to the resignation of the twenty-eight elected Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality:—

The resignation of the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta. Twenty-eight elected Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality have resigned, and bye-elections are going to be held to fill the vacancies. The Calcutta newspapers have already raised a cry, with the object of preventing people from standing as candidates for Commissionerships in the ensuing bye-elections. In our opinion, however, the resignation of the Municipal Commissioners will not in any way affect the municipal administration. New Commissioners will carry on this administration very much in the way in which old Commissioners were carrying it on. As for the condemnation by the Government of the conduct of some Municipal Commissioners, it is absolutely useless to be offended at it. Many innocent persons are convicted by our law courts, but this does not offend anybody. As for corruption, even high officials are not free from it; they take bribe in the shape of dinners and presents. Those against whom the insinuation of corruption was directed might be justified in resigning. And they have done wrong in not resigning earlier. It is not, however, right to say that no one ought to come forward to be elected to a vacant Commissionership. It is impertinent for a subject people to take umbrage at anything said or done by the Government.

(g) Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

21. A correspondent of the *Tri.pura Hitaishi* of the 11th September,

writing from Chandrasekhardi in the Tippera district, complains that the water passage under the masonry bridge at Pennai, near the Gauripur Bazar, is so narrow that it hardly admits of boats passing under the bridge. In the rainy season, when the water stands high, boats cannot pass from one side of the bridge to the other. This causes serious inconvenience to tradesmen, as the Gauripur Bazar, which is a trade centre in these parts and can be reached from the Pennai bridge by water in a quarter of an hour, cannot be reached *via* Daudkandi in less than six or seven hours. The Magistrate is requested to have a bridge constructed at Pennai similar to the one existing at Elliottganj.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1899.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Sept. 17th, 1899.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,
Sept. 11th, 1899.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 14th, 1899.

22. The *Sanjivani* of the 14th September regrets that the authorities of the Eastern Bengal State Railway should have thought fit to suspend the issue of six monthly return tickets to intermediate class passengers from the 1st October next. The public expected a reduction in railway fares and greater attention to the comfort and convenience of passengers instead of greater inconvenience in railway travelling. Lord Curzon is personally looking into the affairs of the Railway Department and has Colonel Gardiner for his adviser, and will the public be deprived, during his régime, of the advantages which they have so long enjoyed?

BASUMATI,
Sept. 14th, 1899.

23. The *Basumati* of the 14th September makes the following complaints in connection with the management of the Sealdah station:—

The licensed cooly is in the habit of extorting an exorbitant fee from a passenger, especially from one who is found to be encumbered with family and a heavy luggage. According to rule, no cooly can take more than half an-anna, no matter how many bundles he may have to carry. But the coolies are in the habit of taking from the passengers half an-anna for every bundle they carry. The railway employés seem to be in league with the coolies, and if a passenger complains to them against the coolies, they do not take any steps to redress their grievance. The coolies serve the railway employés in various ways, and this is another reason why they are so kindly disposed towards the coolies. The coolies, if handsomely paid, often carry heavy luggages belonging to passengers without requiring them to be booked. They thus help passengers in defrauding the railway. It has become urgently necessary to prevent these coolies from extorting high fees from passengers and otherwise ill-treating them.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1899.

24. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 15th September complains of the conduct of the station-master of Rampur Hât. On the 3rd September last, a peon of the Railway Inspector of Bolpur was travelling by rail to Pakour. The station-master, who was evidently not in his senses, made him get down from the train, and in the presence of the booking clerk, guard and other spectators took off his cloth and walked him on the platform in a most obscene manner. There was at this time a ballast train near the platform full of coolies male and female. The general assistant to the station-master requested him to desist from the act, and he has been suspended by the station-master for so doing. The suspended clerk appealed to the Manager, and there has been an enquiry into his complaint.

The Editor requests the railway authorities to dismiss the offending station-master if his guilt is proved.

PRATIVASI,
Sept. 18th, 1899.

25. A correspondent of the *Prativasi* of the 18th September complains of the conduct of one Abinas Chandra Chakravarti, a clerk to the station-master of Itakhola on the Assam-Bengal Railway. On the 10th September last, the correspondent was present in the station-master's room, when the clerk extorted five pice from a passenger who purchased a ticket from him. The name of this passenger is Baikuntha Nath. Another passenger, a cooly, of the name of Ram Charan, purchased two half and one full ticket at anna 1-9 each full ticket. The clerk took from him annas 5-3 instead of annas 4-6, the actual fare. The clerk extorted whatever he could from many other passengers, but desisted from this objectionable practice when he saw the correspondent taking down notes of what he was doing.

(h)—General.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 15th, 1899.

26. The *Hitavadi* of the 15th September complains that some Departments of the Bengal Secretariat are kept open even on Sundays. Some Christian clerks were rebuked because they did not attend office one Sunday. The Lieutenant-Governor ought to enquire into this complaint. Sir John Woodburn has the reputation of being a pious Christian, and one cannot easily

believe that offices under him are kept open on Sunday. It is un-Christian to work on a Sunday, and it is said that officers are punished if they keep their offices open on a Sunday.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

27. The *Sanjivani* of the 14th September writes as follows:—

The two Rajas in the Bengal come a member of the Bengal Council, but he seems already to have had his fill of the satisfaction of sitting as a member. When an important measure like the Calcutta Municipal Bill is being discussed in the Council, he has gone away to visit Bhagalpur, Ajmer and Raipur to make preparations for the establishment of the proposed Rajkumar College. He attended the Council only one day during the present session, but expressed no opinion on the Municipal Bill, one way or the other. Could not the people of North Bengal find a better representative?

As for the Raja of Nashipur, he showed his courage once or twice, but absented himself as soon as the fight grew hottest. He has not acted discreetly by sending round telegrams to the effect that he has been laid up with an inflammation of his throat. Inflammation of the throat is not a sufficient excuse for absenting one-self when the battle is raging. True and earnest soldiers conceal fatal ailments in order to go forth to fight, and lay down their lives on the battle field. The Raja of Nashipur has not acted rightly. One Raja has fled from the field of battle and another has not at all shewn himself on it!

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 14th, 1899.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

28. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 14th September has the following:—

Government's treatment of the Native States. The British Government is displaying unparalleled sagacity and statesmanship in bringing the

Native States under its complete subjection and in preventing their rulers from plotting against it. The rulers of these States did not hesitate, during the Hindu or Musalman supremacy, to cut each other's throats. A native chief can, now-a-days, be threatened or coaxed by the foreign office and the Political Officers at their pleasure. But this is done with the money of the Native States and with the aid of their troops. The East India Company had promised never to interfere with the independence of the native chiefs, and that promise is, no doubt, being fulfilled by the British Government. But the treatment which the Native States are receiving at its hands is very different. The British Government, unlike the Company, intends to make the native chiefs wise and introduce order and system into their rule. It seems that the time is not far off when all native chiefs will be placed under one and the same law. Such an idea at first suggested itself to Lord Dufferin; but for some reason or other he left the question to his successor for solution. Lord Curzon, who possesses a superior knowledge of eastern affairs, will probably take the matter into his special consideration. But we cannot say that if such a procedure is adopted, it will produce a salutary effect on the Native States. Formerly, the British Government was very careful in dealing with the affairs of a Native State, but it is so no longer.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Sept. 14th, 1899.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

29. The *Basumati* of the 14th September has the following in continuation of what it wrote in a previous issue (*vide* Report on Native Papers for 9th September, 1899, paragraph 24):—

The new writers of history in Bengal.

It is from English historians that we gather information reflecting discredit on the English character, and it is from the same source that we get proofs of English valour, English large-heartedness, and English sagacity. No native historian has ever discovered new facts and truths. The history of the English conquest of India would have been a sealed book to us if there had been no Torrens, no Thornton, no Wheeler, no Forrest, no Holwell. But for them and but for the information which is supplied by them, we would not have been able to spread the germs of sedition

BASUMATI,
Sept. 14th, 1899.

in the country on the plea of writing history. Our seditious writings, however, are not based on facts, sound argument, or careful research. Quibbling and imagination and fallacy—these are the constituting elements of our historical research. In writing history, we always start with preconceptions of our own. We accept what goes to support those preconceptions and reject what militates against them. A friend told us the other day that many historical records and documents hitherto unpublished will soon see the light of day, and that the public will soon come to know many new facts about the English conquest of Bengal. If there is really such an overpowering desire to publish new facts, why not publish the accumulated records in the archives of the Home and Foreign offices? Translate the Persian records into Bengali and publish them, and we shall know many new and interesting facts about many English officers, about the shop-keeping administrative policy, and about the condition of Bengalis and Bengali society of that time. If you must abuse the English, you should first produce evidence to justify your conduct. But how is it that you accept one portion and reject another portion of the historical information supplied to you by the English—information, upon which you blindly and helplessly depend for all your historical writing?

The writer of "Nandakumar Charita" has described Nandakumar as a great scholar, politician and patriot. In his opinion, Nandakumar was a man of unparalleled generosity, and he has placed his hero on the seat of a saint. We have no objection to this. The writer is at liberty to extol his hero to the seventh heaven, and describe him as a combination of all godly virtues and qualities. But he has no right to misconstrue historical facts and causelessly abuse the English. We, therefore, protest against his conduct. There is nothing in the book to show that the writer has discovered any original historical facts. He has not been able to produce strong arguments in support of his conclusions. He has produced no evidence, no record to support the new facts upon which some of his conclusions are based. He has also failed to justify his rejection of historical facts in many cases. So much for the intrinsic historical value of the book. But a reading of it would leave an impression, however faint, upon the mind that the English put an innocent Brahman to death by conspiracy and dishonest means. Such an impression would no doubt create disaffection in the Hindu mind. To make such an impression is an offence which is unpardonable in an educated Hindu.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPKA,
July 1st, 1899.

30. The *Utkaldipika* of the 1st July complains that the ward Commissioners of the Cuttack Municipality, though they have taken up the work of supervising the repair of the drains in that Municipality, do not attend to their work properly, and suggests that the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman must take steps to secure efficient and expeditious supervision.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 23rd September, 1899.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.